



# Nintendo 3DS XL Circle Pad Replacement

This guide will take you step by step through the process of replacing the circle pad joystick.

Written By: Charlene Donlon



## INTRODUCTION

So you managed to break your circle pad and can't play your favorite games? Don't fear, the circle pad can be replaced!



### TOOLS:

- [Phillips #000 Screwdriver](#) (1)
- [iFixit Opening Tools](#) (1)
- [Spudger](#) (1)
- [Tweezers](#) (1)



### PARTS:

- [Nintendo 3DS XL Control Pad Button](#) (1)
- [Nintendo 3DS XL Control Pad Rubber Gasket](#) (1)
- [Nintendo 3DS XL Control Buttons](#) (1)
- [Nintendo 3DS XL Control Buttons Rubber Gasket](#) (1)
- [Nintendo 3DS XL Circle Pad Button](#) (1)

## Step 1 — Battery



- Unscrew the two 4.2 mm screws that are located at the top of the cover.
- The screws have locking washers that prevent the screws from falling off of the back cover. Leave these locking washers on the screws, it is not necessary to remove the washers for this repair guide.

## Step 2



- Hold the device so that the cover is facing up.
- Using a plastic opening tool, pry off the cover starting at the top right corner.
  - Hold the edge of the cover to ensure it does not reattach.
  - Look for the small section below the stylus compartment. Pry off the cover at that point if it is still attached.
- Take off the cover of the device and set aside.



### Step 3



- Insert the plastic opening tool into the opening located on the right side of the battery.
- Pry off the battery from the lower casing.
- Lift the battery out of the case and set aside.

### Step 4 — Circle Pad Joystick



- Using tweezers pull out the rubber bumpers that are located at the top of the device on either side of the game cartridge compartment.

## Step 5



- Remove the six 6.2 mm screws using a Phillips #00 screwdriver

## Step 6



- Remove the 2.3 mm screw located above the game cartridge slot with a Phillips #00 screwdriver.

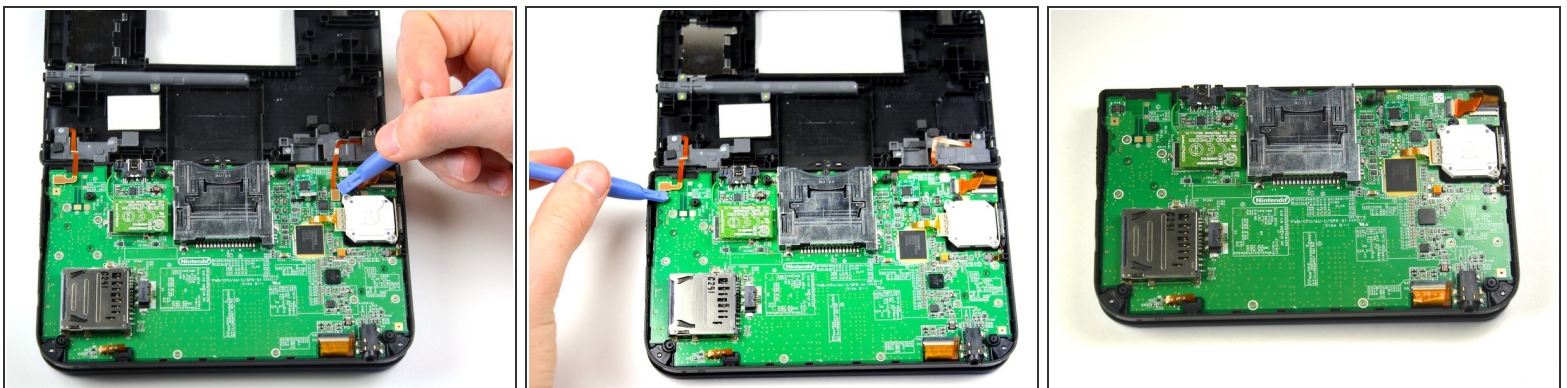


## Step 7



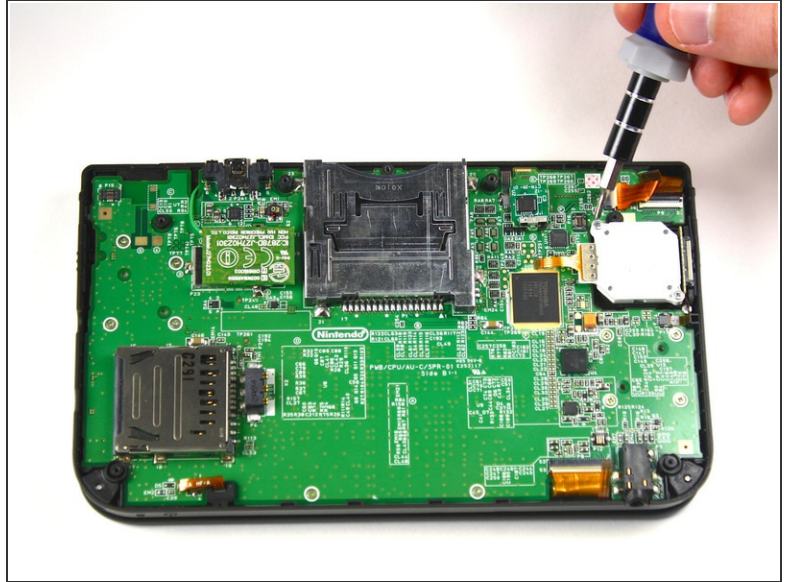
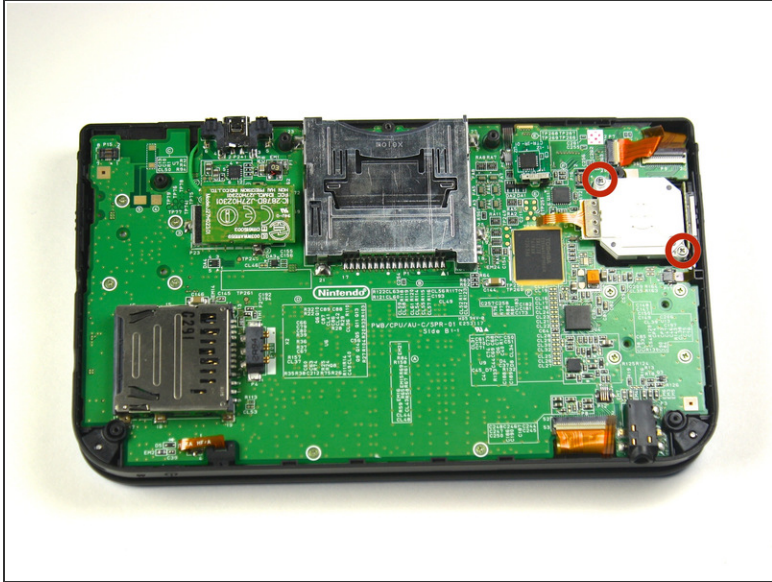
- With a plastic opening tool pry off the lower case starting at the bottom edge and working around the perimeter.
- Two ribbon cables connect the case to the circuit board. Be careful to not pull the case too hard and rip the ribbon cables.

## Step 8



- Remove the ribbon cables located underneath the left and right bumpers by prying up the base of the cables with a plastic opening tool.
- Completely remove the lower case from the rest of the device and set aside.

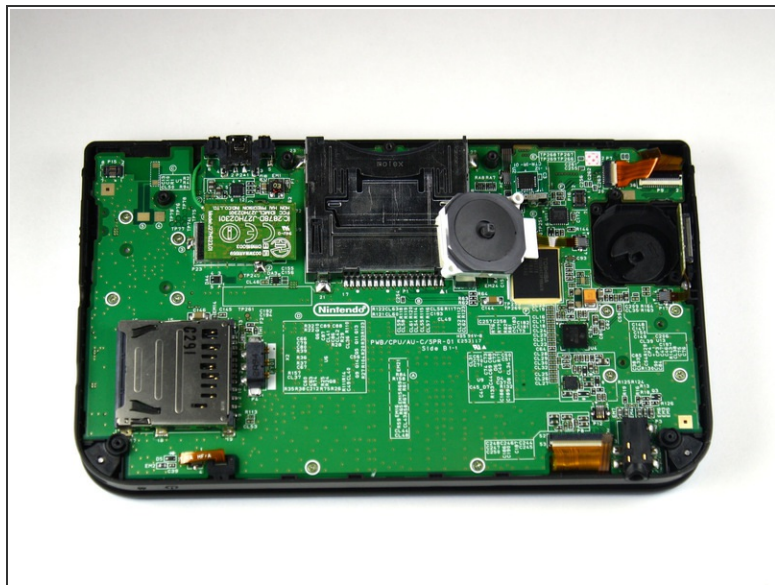
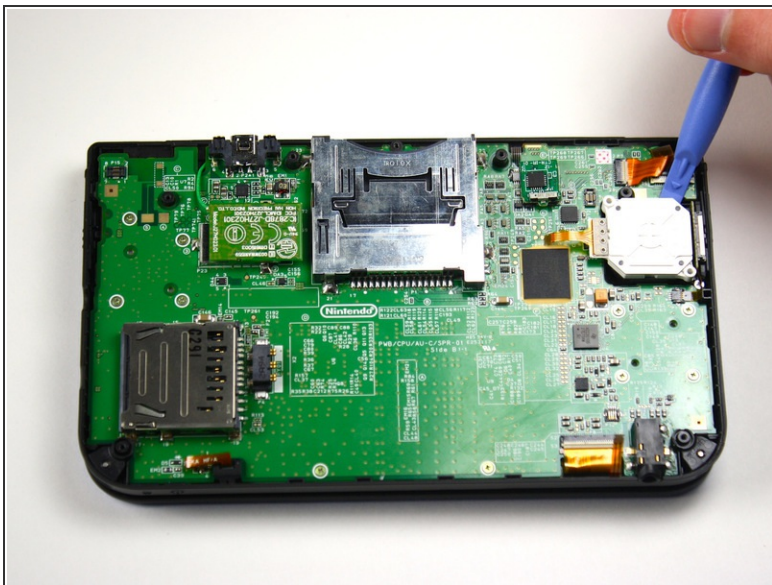
## Step 9



- Position the device such that the game cartridge slot is located at the top.
- Locate the circle pad on the right side of the device.
- Remove the two 7.5 mm screws on the upper left and the bottom right corners.

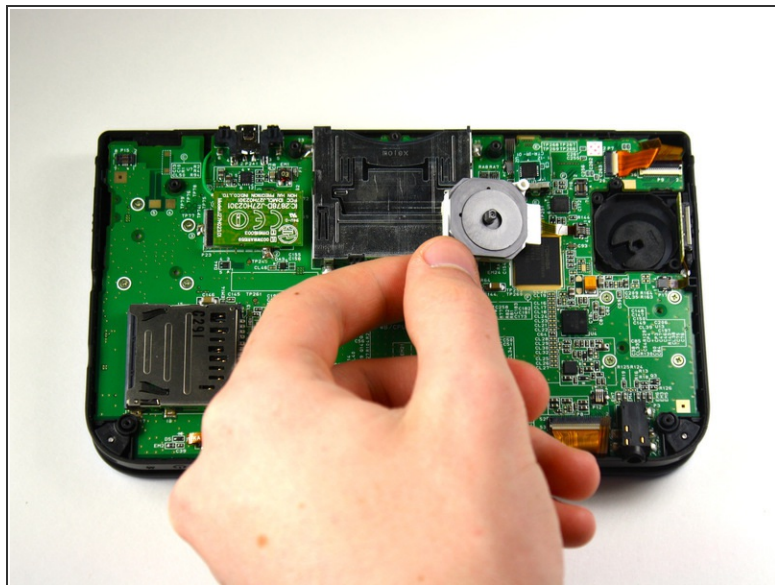
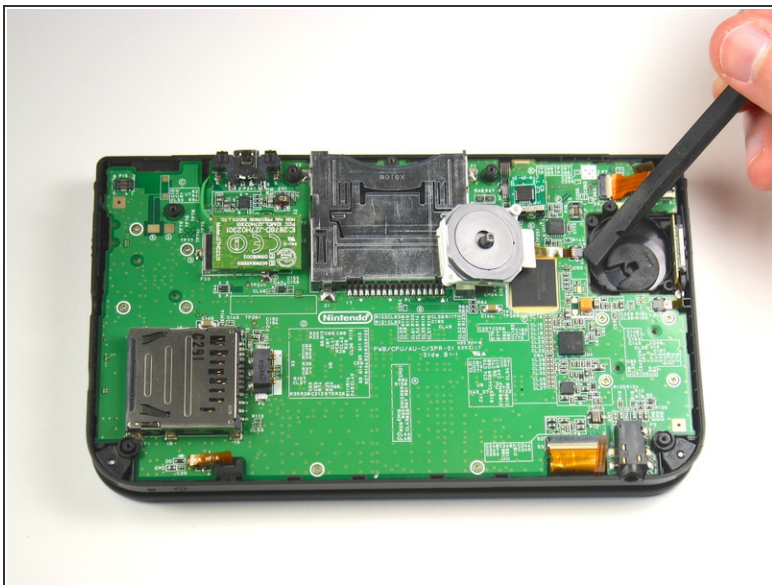


## Step 10



- Using a plastic opening tool pop off the circle pad joystick.
  - Do not use excessive force with the plastic opening tool. There is a ribbon attaching the circle pad joystick to the motherboard that will remain attached.
- i** There is a loose washer located in between the circle pad joystick and the circle pad. Use caution and do not lose this piece.

## Step 11



- Using the flat head side of the spudger carefully lift up the retaining flap that attaches the circle pad ribbon to the motherboard.
- Remove the ribbon and circle pad joystick.

To reassemble your device, follow these instructions in reverse order.

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